

FACT SHEET

FINAL RULE: Methods for Measurement of Visible Emissions

ACTION

- On September 14, 2006, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued final testing procedures for determining the opacity of emissions plumes from industrial facilities. These procedures, known as Methods 203A, B, and C, will be added to Appendix M of Part 51.
- The procedures expand state environmental agencies' options to determine compliance with opacity regulations. These regulations often are included in state plans for implementing Clean Air Act requirements – State Implementation Plans or SIPs.
- The final action also corrects inadvertent errors and makes updates to:
 - various testing provisions in the New Source Performance Standards (NSPS) for kraft pulp mill, petroleum refinery, and municipal solid waste landfills;
 - Method 24 – used to determine the volatile organic content and other parameters of surface coatings; and
 - Performance Specification 2 – used to determine the acceptability of continuous emission monitoring systems.

BACKGROUND

- EPA proposed to add these three test procedures as federal regulations in November 1993 (58 FR 61640).
- Evaluating the opacity of emissions serves as a surrogate for particulate emissions. Numerous state and federal regulations require that opacity of emissions be measured or monitored.
- States may choose to use Methods 203A, B, and C to determine compliance with their rules. No Federal emission standard is changed in this part of the rule nor are any additional recordkeeping requirements added.
- Kraft pulp mills, municipal solid waste landfills, and facilities that conduct performance evaluations on sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxides continuous emission monitoring systems will benefit from the corrections being made to the NSPS testing provisions.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Interested parties can download the rule from EPA's web site on the Internet under "Recent Actions" at the following address: <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/oarpg>. For further information about the rulemaking, contact Foston Curtis at EPA's Office of

Air Quality Planning and Standards at (919) 541-1063.